

REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action mailed October 13, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of all rejections in light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, and the following remarks.

Applicant again wishes to extend his appreciation to the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that in step d) tail gas and fuel gas are being recycled from said hydrogen separation system and from said carbon monoxide separation system respectively. Applicant submits that the deletion of the word "the" from before both "tail gas" and "fuel gas" makes the claim definite because these two terms are being introduced for the first time in claim 1.

Claim 3 has been amended to state that the separation system comprises one compressor. In claim 1, Applicant claims that the carbon dioxide separation system has at least one compressor. In amended claim 3, Applicant is specifically claiming that the carbon dioxide separation system comprises one compressor.

Claim 14 has been amended to specify that in step d) tail gas is recycled from said hydrogen separation system. Applicant now claims that in step d) the improvement comprising recycling tail gas from said hydrogen separation system. Tail gas is first introduced as a term in this claim in step 14 and by deleting "the" Applicant contends that the subject claim is now definite.

Claim 16 has been amended to state that methane is recycled from said carbon monoxide separation system. Applicant has also removed “the” from before “methane” as this term is first introduced in this claim as being recycled from said carbon monoxide separation system.

Claim 17 has been amended to state that the separation system comprises one compressor. In claim 14, Applicant claims that the carbon dioxide separation system has at least one compressor. In amended claim 17, Applicant is specifically claiming that the carbon dioxide separation system comprises one compressor.

Claim 27 has been amended to claim that the hydrogen is removed from said feed gas. Applicant has deleted “stream” as this term is not present in claim 14.

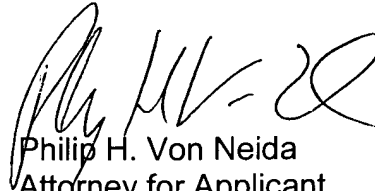
Applicant submits that these amendments are all supported by the specification as filed and that the claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Reconsideration and reversal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims define patentable subject matter and are in condition for allowance. Prompt favorable action to that end is accordingly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned should any issue arise during the reconsideration of the subject application.

Respectfully submitted,

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